



May 28, 2015

Honorable John McCain  
US Senate  
241 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Jeff Flake  
US Senate  
413 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McCain and Flake:

We write to thank you for your leadership related to the proposed designation by the Obama Administration of a "Grand Canyon Watershed National Monument." We read with great interest your March 10, 2015 letter to President Barack Obama and agree with the concerns you raise. We applaud your legislative efforts to curb the use of the Antiquities Act from affecting water rights without congressional approval.

Specifically, we agree about the need for robust collaboration before any designation takes form. We all want to preserve the Grand Canyon for future generations and a sweeping designation of 1.7 million acres of land could result in unintended consequences if stakeholders do not have the opportunity for adequate input. Elected leaders from the State of Arizona – federal, state, and local – should have ample opportunity to understand specifically what the Obama Administration is contemplating, and then engage with a wide variety of stakeholders to provide thoughtful input.

Among those who need to provide considerable input is the travel and tourism industry – of which we play a significant role. Based on the details currently available, this designation has the potential to harm a variety of recreation and tourism industries, including our own, depending on how boundaries are defined and how management is conducted. We have none of those answers and would strongly oppose this designation prior to receiving those details and having the opportunity to provide input and receive assurances the travel and tourism industry would be held harmless.

To punctuate the issue of boundaries mentioned above, the Town of Tusayan and the State of Arizona should have the opportunity to ensure the businesses and resources of the Town and the state-owned Grand Canyon Airport will not be adversely affected. Both Tusayan and Grand Canyon Airport rely on recreation and tourism and this proposed designation could significantly harm both.

A designation of this size and scope should have a thoughtful and thorough process built around it and we look forward to being part of that dialogue.

Too much in politics comes down to an all-or-nothing mentality which rarely results in a positive outcome. To that end, thank you for doing what you can to ensure this proposed designation receives the scrutiny it deserves. Please let us know how we can be a positive addition to your efforts.

Sincerely,



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Brenda Halvorson  
Papillon Airways  
President, CEO



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Alan Stephen  
Grand Canyon Airlines  
Vice President of Corporate Affairs



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Brian Brusa  
Maverick Aviation Group  
Vice President of Government Relations